

Art of Being Human Discussion Questions
01.28.18

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story about a time you had an adventure or shared an experience with someone and having someone to share it with made it even better.
2. Looking back over your life how many of your best moments were shared with people you care about?

Background

In our modern world most of us live solitary lives and despite being busier than ever we are lonelier than we have ever been. Western Christianity is much the same we live separate lives of faith and seldom do we truly embark on living in community. This is in stark contrast to the reality found in both Old and New Testaments which describe community and faith all wrapped together. The question is how do we connect with others in our distinctly isolated and separated world?

Read **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Colossians 3:12-14; Romans 12:10-13.**

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, what reasons does the author give for why two is better than one?
2. In Colossians 3:12-14, what does Paul advise we should clothe ourselves with?
3. In Romans 12:10-13, what commands does Paul give for how we should live?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. What advantages does doing life with others bring to us today?
2. How do we avoid being taken advantage of in today's world and still approach people through the lens of Colossians 3:12-14?
3. What images come to mind when you think of words like devoted, fervor, zeal, and patient?
4. Why, in spite of being made for relationship, do we find ourselves isolated?
5. When have you been part of a Christian community that did "welcoming friendship" really well?
6. How do we live in a way that leaves us open to experiences with others without being blind to toxic relationships?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

7. We all have places we long to be more connected, in what ways or places do you desire more connection?
8. Where did this week's sermon leave you feeling challenged?
9. Where did this week's sermon leave you feeling encouraged?

10. What is an action step you might take as a group to practice being invitational, being hospitable? (This can be creative as your group wants. It could be something you all do together or it could be that you all experiment with the same thing in your personal lives and then share how it went in a later week.)

Closing

Spend time praying together that we would all take steps to be people who live out our faith in community. That we would be marked by the love God has for us and we would share that well with those in our path.

Reminder: To be human is to be in relationships with others, we are hard wired for it. So, why is it so challenging to be our true selves with others? Lean into our desire for relationships, first with Jesus and then with those around us.